

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 00574 062112Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T CAIRO 00574

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, EG, IS
SUBJECT: MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETING IN CAIRO

1. GAMASY TELEPHONED ME LATE THIS EVENING. SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CANCEL HIS SUNDAY MORNING MEETING WITH CODEL ZABLOCKI BECAUSE SADAT HAS ORDERED HIM ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT ON TRIP TOKHARTOUM. HE, THEREFORE, WANTED ME TO HAVE HIS VIEWS AND QUESTIONS ON MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETING WITHOUT DELAY.

2. DATE: GAMASY SAID HE BELIEVES MILITARY COMMITTEE SHOULD CONVENE JANUARY 11 OR 12 IN CAIRO. TOLD HIM OF STRONG BEGIN/WEIZMAN PREFERENCE FOR JANUARY 15, BUT HE INSISTED IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE CONVENE 11TH OR 12TH. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED GOE HAD EARLIER ANNOUNCED, ON BASIS ISMAILIA MINI-SUMMIT UNDERSTANDING, THAT MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETING WOULD CONVENE BEFORE POLITICAL COMMITTEE. HE HOPED, THEREFORE, THAT ISRAELIS WILL SEE THEIR WAY CLEAR TO AGREE TO AN EARLIER MEETING. FYI: GAMASY AFFIRMED THAT IF ISRAELIS ABSOLUTELY INSIST ON THE FIFTEENTH, HE WILL AGREE, BUT ASKED THAT VIGOROUS EFFORT BE MADE TO OBTAIN THE EARLIER DATE. END FYI.

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3. SIMULTANEOUS PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT RE MEETING DATE: GAMASY SAID GOE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT WITH GOI ON DATE OF MILITARY COMMITTEE MEETING AS SOON AS THE TWO GOVTS REACH AGREEMENT ON THE EXACT DATE.

4. VENUE: AS VP MUBARAK HAD EARLIER TOLD ME, VENUE WILL

BE AT TAHRA PALACE IN CAIRO. ISRAELI DELEGATION WILL ALSO BE HOUSED THERE.

5. COMMUNICATIONS: GAMASY OPINED THAT ISRAELI COMMUNICATIONS WITH JERUSALEM SHOULD BE THROUGH THIS EMBASSY IF WE ARE AGREEABLE. IF, HOWEVER, WEIZMAN WANTS HIS OWN COMMUNICATIONS, HE ASKED THAT ISRAELIS LET HIM KNOW, THROUGH US, ASQUICKLY AS POSSIBLE PRECISELY WHAT KIND OF COMMUNICATIONS ISRAELIS WOULD LIKE TO DEPLOY AND NUMBER OF OPERATORS.

6. AIRCRAFT: GAMASY RECALLED WEIZMAN HAD SUGGESTED HE MIGHT COME IN AN ISRAELI AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT. HE SAID GOE PREFERS AN ISRAELI CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT, BUT IF WEIZMAN INSISTS, HE IS AGREEABLE TO ISRAELI AIR FORCE PLANE. IN EITHER CASE, HE WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER AIRCRAFT WILL RETURN TO ISRAEL AFTER BRINGING ISRAELI DELEGATION OR WHETHER IT WILL REMAIN IN CAIRO. IF IT IS THE LATTER, GOE WILL HAVE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO ACCOMMODATE THE CREW AND INFO RE SIZE OF CREW WILL BE NEEDED. AIRCRAFT SHOULD LAND AT CAIRO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. HE ASKED FOR EXACT TIME OF ARRIVAL SO THAT AIRCRAFT CAN BE MET.

7. COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION: ASKED ABOUT COMPOSITION EGYPTIAN DELEGATION, GAMASY SAID THIS WILL DEPEND UPON ISRAELI DELEGATION COMPOSITION. HE NOTED THERE HAVE
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BEEEN PRESS REPORTS THAT WEIZMAN WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY GENERAL GUR, TAMIR AND GAZIT. EGYPTIAN DELEGATION, HE SAID, WILL GENERALLY CONSIST OF OPPOSITE NUMBERS. IT IS HIS PRESENT PLAN TO HAVE CHIEF OF STAFF LTG MOHAMED ALI FAHMY, DMI M/G SHAWKAT, CHIEF OF OPERATIONS M/G GRIDLEY AND M/G MAGDUB. IF ISRAELIS DO NOT BRING GUR, THEN FAHMY WILL BE DROPPED FROM EGYPTIAN DELEGATION. MINIMUM EGYPTIAN DELEGATION, BESIDES GAMASY, WILL CONSIST OF GRIDLEY, SHAWKAT AND MAGDUB. HE ASKED FOR NAMES OF ISRAELI DELEGATION AND NUMBER AND NAMES OF ACCOMPANYING STAFF ASAP SO THAT ACCOMMODATIONS CAN BE ARRANGED.

8. DRESS: GAMASY SAID GOE PREFERS THAT BOTH ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN DELEGATIONS BE IN CIVILIAN DRESS.

9. PRESS COVERAGE OF MEETING: GAMASY PROPOSED THAT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE BE PUBLIC SO THAT PICTURES COULD BE TAKEN. ALL OTHER SESSIONS SHOULD BE CLOSED TO ALLOW MAXIMUM TIME TO WORK. IF WEIZMAN WANTS TO MAKE A STATEMENT EVERY DAY OR AT THE END OF THE CONFERENCE, GAMASY SAID IT WOULD BE AGREEABLE PROVIDED BOTH SIDES WORK OUT AN AGREED COMMUNIQUE BEFOREHAND.

10. AGENDA: GAMASY SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR ISRAELI
IDEAS ABOUT THE AGENDA FOR MEETING. EILTS

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